

## GOVERNMENT CLERKS.

Brief Resume of the People who Compose the Government Service.

Civil Service Law Protects Most of Them. The English System of Pensions for Government Employees.

Special to the Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—There are very few people outside of Washington who know much about the government service and the class of people who belong to that immense army known as government clerks. There are some correspondents who delight in belittling the usefulness of the government employee, and many writers there are, be it said with regret, who give the country at large through the press a wrong impression of the female government employee. The gentleman clerk is one apart and distinct from the employe in business circles. I mean that he is sui generis.

The term "government clerk" does not imply in all instances that a man occupies a position under the government; therefore, unlike the work outside his calling, although there are many instances where the government employe has become so wedded to his position that he cannot break the shackles which have bound him for so many years to the stultified monotonous duties of his office. I have known many instances where the mere position of a government clerkship has led to both fame and fortune. There are many wealthy men to-day in Washington who owe their position in society and their fortune to the acquaintance made through a government clerkship with large claims which they successfully carried through congress.

The instance is fresh in my mind of the present partner of the Washington Star, Mr. S. H. Kauffman. Twenty-five years ago Kauffman was a \$1000 clerk in the treasury department, in a division which had charge of certain Southern claims. Suddenly deciding one day to abandon the dull life of working away in the monotonous routine of a government clerkship he promptly resigned his position, took charge of certain claims upon which he had been working, and with tact and diplomacy put them through congress, receiving for his labors a fee which was the nucleus of his present fortune. Although coming to Washington from Zanesville, Ohio, a poor young man, Kauffman saw his opportunity and seized it.

The Washington Star was at that time a small paper, controlled by ex-Mayor Wallace and a few friends. Kauffman made overtures for its purchase, and with George C. Adams, then the Washington correspondent of the New York World (since deceased), and Cyrus S. Norcross, the present editor-in-chief of the paper, they purchased the property, paying \$10,000 in cash and giving their notes for the balance of the purchase money. The first year's business under the new management cleared up all the notes, amounting to some \$30,000, and placed the paper upon a paying basis, which it has maintained ever since. It is said that last year \$150,000 net profit was divided between Norcross, Kauffman and Adams.

There are many instances of the luck which strikes a government clerk. There are many successful soldiers in Washington to-day who began life with a \$25 per month clerkship in some department. There are also men now engaged in profitable real estate business here who began their career as government clerks.

Then, too, there is the other side of the question. Certain soldiers in Washington to-day who began life with a \$25 per month clerkship in some department. There are also men now engaged in profitable real estate business here who began their career as government clerks.

There are many men of brains in the Washington departments, occupying positions of responsibility and honor, who prefer position to wealth. In this class may be placed the assistant secretaries in the various departments, and the chiefs of bureaus not directly connected with the department service, such as the Smithsonian Institution, the Geological Survey, the Coast Survey, the Revenue Marine Service and the Fish Commission.

THE INFLUENCE OF WOMAN upon departmental work may of course be exerted for good or evil. It cannot be denied that there are many bad influences in the government service. It is equally true that there is a larger number of good women who influence upon the young men with whom they are associated is salutary. This class of women are widowed mothers, sisters, and in many instances orphan girls. Their home influences have been such as to make them pursue honorable lives. They are scrupulous in their attention to duty, and their influence in their home life wherever it may be is of the best. They devote their spare moments to the care of friends, or to the reading of beautiful literature. They pursue an even life without excitement, whose compensation lies in the fact that they are supporting or aiding to support an invalid family or afflicted relatives. They draw their inspiration from their work, and are always smiling and happy, while bearing the burdens of sorrow and sickness.

Then we have the other class of female clerks who, bent upon having a good time, waste their moments in pleasure-seeking and pleasure-seeking is always to be found at the theatres or driving over the Washington boulevards with some attentive, and it may be interested male companion; patronizers of the swell restaurants, and in short may be said to be true women of the world. It is a happy fact, however, that this class is in the minority, and fast becoming weeded out of the service. The tone of the government service is improving, even though the government is predictably growing every day, and its need of clerks is

YEARLY ON THE INCREASE. The tender who easily observe that Washington departmental service has its many attractions for clerks of both sexes. The hours are from 9 until 4, with one-half hour for luncheon, are easy and the pay in most instances adequate for the duties performed. There is one class of employes, however, who are far underpaid. I allude to the stenographers and typewriters. Both of these professions require more than ordinary ability and should be paid accordingly. The government is crying

ever for stenographers and typewriters. It will have to cry for some time before the standard of salary is increased. A stenographer when first appointed receives a fair average of \$60 per month. In a few years, to the heavy demands made upon the stenographer of the art and has spent considerable money for instruction. He naturally is discouraged by the small salary offered, and therefore he seeks a position in some business house, where, starting on a small salary, he can show that and increase his position to one of importance and profit in much less time than he can by staying away in the government service with small hope of promotion or recognition.

Brief resume of the people who compose the government service. The civil service law has protected the occupying positions, and it is even hinted now that the English system of pensions for government employes would work well in this country. That is a question upon which opinions differ vastly, and it is undoubtedly true, however, that the government gets more by the civil service law, and gets better work for the money paid under its provisions than it would by following the spoils system and ousting its vast army of clerks at the change of every administration.

## PREMIUMS.

List of Awards of the State Grange Fair Held at McGregor—A Grand Show.

HORSES AND MULES—GENERAL PURPOSES.

Stallions, 3 years and over—First premium, G. W. Griggs, \$12. Second premium, Mason & Clark, \$8. Stallions, 2 years and under—First premium, J. M. Kendrick, \$10. Second premium, J. M. Kendrick, \$10. Mares, 3 years and over—First premium, J. M. Kendrick, \$10. Second premium, J. M. Kendrick, \$10. Mares, 2 years and under—First premium, J. M. Kendrick, \$10. Second premium, J. M. Kendrick, \$10.

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## ALL VETERANS.

Those Who Fought for the Lost Cause Met Last Night.

A Temporary Organization of Tarrant County Ex-Confederates Met at the Officers' Club.

Purport to call published in this paper as promulgated by Capt. J. C. Richardson of Fort Worth, they met at the courthouse Thursday evening some twenty-five ex-Confederate veterans of Fort Worth and Tarrant county.

Capt. Richardson explained the occasion of the call, saying it was made at the instance of Gen. W. L. Cabell, Capt. Wainman and other leaders, whose ulterior object was the formation of an ex-Confederate club of state scope, which would draw to its membership all the veterans of the lost cause.

John C. Cummings was called to preside, and in taking his seat made a brief but pithy speech, stating the nature of the call and emphasizing the course that the meeting might take. He said that it behooved every ex-Confederate to support a county organization that would aid in carrying out the arrangements for the benefit of the Confederate home at Austin, where the battle-ground heroes, who cannot help themselves are gathered, quietly awaiting the time when they will be enticed to their fathers' graves. Judge Cummings deprecated the idea of sending North for aid for his old comrades in arms.

Mr. John W. Friend was made secretary of the meeting. Capt. F. Wainman of Dallas explained that it was desired that the veterans of Tarrant county would organize. He regretted that Gen. Cabell had been prevented from being present by a delayed train.

The meeting was then addressed by Capt. W. G. Vail, after which thirty-three old soldiers enrolled their names for membership. A committee on permanent organization was appointed as follows: W. G. Vail, chairman; J. P. Smith, R. E. Beckham, A. S. Nicholson, A. B. Frazer.

A committee to enroll the names of all ex-Confederates in their respective neighborhoods and to solicit membership was appointed as follows: Fort Worth—W. L. North, Dr. A. P. Brown, William Hall, R. H. King, J. Woods, J. C. Richardson, Benjamin Shipley, J. P. Bowley.

Granger—Capt. A. M. Quayle. Arlington—Dr. C. H. Stephens. Mansfield—Peter Davis. Smithfield—A. C. Brown. Dillio—J. L. Mack.

Keller—Dr. J. R. Wallace. White Settlement—W. T. Allen. Johnson Station—A. F. Cappa. Bedford—Dr. J. L. Wallace. Birdville—J. W. Henderson, William Neal.

Bedford—Adam Eulles. Silver Creek—J. B. Young. Briar Creek—William Corn. Hatch Branch—William Ward. The meeting adjourned to meet at the courthouse at 2 o'clock on Saturday, October 25th inst.

The original Webster's Dictionary and the Illustrated Edition for one year, only \$4.00, shipped prepaid, to the nearest subscriber.

ASLEEP ON THE TRACK. A Young Farmer Killed by the Cannon Ball Train at Denton.

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